

JACK TAR AT WORK.
Just What a Sailor Has to Do Each Day
on Ship-Board

The mate of a square-rigged merchantman thus described the life of an able-bodied seaman on a long voyage from New York. The Times reporter, a sailor himself, was on duty one day at work with the "morning watch" at four o'clock, when he must turn out of his narrow bunk in the "forecastle" and tumble up on deck prepared to scrub and wash down decks, which are always more or less badly stained with salt water and the residue of water used for cleaning purposes is always in one hand, and with the aid of buckets and ordinary brooms, brushes or "squeezes." Jack usually succeeds in making things tolerably clean.

When the ship is coming into port and the captain allows the decks to look particularly white, Jack dares to show his hands and knees and wear the decks with all the vigor of a checkman with certain articles called "holystones." Now, holystones are not treasured fragments of some classical shrine, nor foot-licking pieces of sandstone about the size of a brick, and it is not too much to say that they are abandoned the nautical mind when the holystoning process becomes necessary. The operation is always long and laborious, and the only respite Jack has from this odious task is in polishing tar into the seams or being ordered aloft to attend to the rigging. He is not out of running gear. Consequently, by eight o'clock, when he is relieved by the "forenoon" watch he has had sufficient exercise to get up an appetite for break-

This meal, year in and out, consists of a liberal supply of a hot, black, bever-

with cold coffee, which is stewed to a molasses, and eaten with it all, with molasses. Then, there is a bread, porridge, or "buzgoe," and a species of hash called "dolosecourse," which nobody but a hungry sailor would ever known to successfully digest. But, however, is provisionally no epithet, and the sailor, when he gets the patches over everything to satisfy an organic craving with gossile food and relish. He then fills his pipe, spins yarns, or returns to his unambitious bunk for a nap, while his shipmates, the "forenoon watch," are engaged in various things—smear on deck and aloft. I have found it difficult to say what the "forenoon watch" will not find to do, for much depends upon the state of the weather.

But yards must be constantly trimmed, according to the direction of the wind. The forenoon watch is on duty after, and, in addition to a seaman's regular duties of setting and shortening sail, there is always plenty of sail-mending, rope-splicing, spar-scraping, rolling, varnishing and painting to do, to keep the ship in the best order, for the standing of the ship, the comfort and

tionally. Then every man must take his turn or "tick" at the wheel, which is always a monotonous and extremely dangerous duty in bad weather.

Well, at 5:30 the men who composed the "afternoon watch" went to a dinner of hot pea soup, boiled pork and a beautiful piece of meat that no argument will ever convince Jack is anything but army mule or horse which is dead a natural death. "Salt horse" is the name given to this substance, and he thinks himself lucky when it is followed by plumduff or "stickjaw pudding." This sumptuous repast is then washed down with copious draughts of coffee, and the men are then seated at a comfortable pipe, once more Jack feels invigorated and happy, and goes on deck as one of the "forenoon watch," which relieves the "afternoon watch" at twelve.

The "afternoon watch," will supervise the ship's work until 4 o'clock, when Jack, with duties of the same nature as the "forenoon watch," and at four o'clock this watch again changed.

So you see that, generally speaking, the men have four hours on duty and four hours off duty. In order to maintain a undeviating regularity, it is evident that one set of men would always be on duty during the best part of the night—an arrangement that would be manifestly unfair. In order, therefore, that one set of men should not be overworked, there are what we sailors call the "dog watches." These watches are the hours between four o'clock in the afternoon and eight o'clock in the evening.

The "afternoon watch" accordingly goes below at four o'clock, and the "dog watch" goes on duty when they have two hours "dog watch." At eight o'clock they go below again, and thus by means of these

ernate nights of duty on deck.
Jack lives on a floating house of busi-

ness, which continually carrying him into unexpected labors. However, in moderate weather every thing is usual, and he is out before six o'clock, and right o'clock in the evening, when Jack's work is finished for the day. He may then smoke his pipe and sing his favorite song or "shanty" to his heart's content. But if during the next few hours or in the course of the night he should be called upon to go down, he must not only get up, but must hurry to turn out of his snug corner in the fore-castle at a moment's notice when he hears the boatswain shout "All hands shorten sail!" Now, this is one of the worst features of Jack's life, and nine chances out of ten it is blowing

on deck and crawls up the shrouds, and you can form no idea of the perilous

What the Negro Was Reading.

p, and he was as black as the ace of

...turning the book which occupied the colored man's time, discovered by looking over his shoulder, that it was "The Laws of Evolution."

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